

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Tajikistan
Program Title:	Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	119-0240
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,801,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$800,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Conflict prevention strengthens vulnerable communities and eases local tensions through public dialogue and improvement of small-scale social and physical infrastructure. Through this approach, USAID is addressing both the root and immediate causes of potential conflict through its conflict prevention objective. Since many conflicts in Central Asia have arisen at the community (rather than international) level and our ability to change structural factors at the national level is limited, USAID's conflict prevention strategy focuses on giving citizens opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their communities, improve living standards, and provide skills and experience that will diminish the potential for conflict. Community action programs, targeted where risks of communal or religious conflicts are greatest, are designed to increase citizen participation in community decision making and local government, and contribute to mitigating sources of conflict by promoting economic recovery and inter-ethnic cooperation. In Tajikistan, conflict prevention activities are focused in the Rasht Valley, southern Khatlon and Sogd, regions which have been identified as being at greater risk for conflict. Conflict prevention activities began in FY 2002 under the Mission's cross-cutting program, and have been reported up to now as a component under SO 4.2. Since the conflict program will become a special objective in FY 2004, it is being notified separately for FY 2004 funding.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$1,801,000 FSA). Conflict prevention activities in Tajikistan will expand to 171 communities in Khatlon Province and Rasht Valley. USAID will continue to focus on coordination with other partners to address issues of unemployment (especially among urban youth), with a new component directly targeted at businesses whose growth will serve the entire target community, thereby alleviating economic tension. As a result of a mid-term evaluation of the program a number of adjustments in program implementation will be made including: more directly discussing and addressing issues of conflict in communities; placing a greater emphasis on social projects and activities to be done in conjunction with infrastructure projects; and making a greater effort to involve women and youth. Principal contractors/grantees: Mercy Corps, the United Nations Development Program, the Aga Khan Foundation, and others to be determined through competition.

FY 2005 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$800,000 FSA). By 2005, USAID will be nearing the end of its engagement with some of its initial conflict prevention sites. In the more recently targeted areas, where conflict vulnerability is likely to be much higher, economic activities and community-based infrastructure and social events will continue to help communities draw youth away from the attraction of violent and extremist organizations and manipulation by elites. The majority of USAID's conflict prevention activities in Central Asia in 2005 and beyond will focus on Tajikistan. The number of total beneficiaries is expected to reach 343,000 in 2005. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined through competition.

Performance and Results: Tajikistan's conflict prevention activities are focused in the south, where tensions run especially high because of closed international borders that restrict trade; disputes that have

resulted from recent land reform measures; a general lack of information and government control of media; unemployment; manipulation by dities; and the general sorts of issues that arise in any ethnic salad bowl such as the Ferghana Valley. During FY 2003, USAID was active in 194 communities in Tajikistan, including many in the Ferghana Valley border region. More than 200 small infrastructure and social engagement projects have been completed (139 in fiscal year 2003), benefiting more than 150,000 people. Examples of conflict prevention activities undertaken by USAID include the organization of a sports ground located between three ethnically-different and unfriendly villages in Shartuz in South-Western Khatlon Province; construction of a small primary school in a mountain village in Garm, Rasht Valley, where children previously attended an over-crowded school in a neighboring village, a situation that had caused resentment among parents; and construction of a water supply system in Sari Pul and Kalaka in Garm, where last year there were two conflicts involving members of both communities over the lack of access to water. In each incident, persons from both sides incurred injuries during the violent clashes. With the implementation of the project almost complete, community members from both Sari Pul and Kalaka have not only settled their differences but also are working side-by-side to install the water system.

Attitudinal polling began in FY 2003, providing baseline data for levels of trust within and between communities and residents' perceptions of local tension. A recent mid-term project evaluation of USAID's conflict prevention program states that, in general, USAID is helping to realize a stronger social fabric in these communities. By program's end, there will be an increased number of communities reporting lessened tension or resolved conflicts, strengthened community participation, and improved local services through community decisions.